SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Nothing has been thought of as yet. There was an idea. But I have not decided anything on that.

Study by NPL about Depletion of Ozone Layer

*44. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi has conducted a study about the extent of depletion of Ozone layer in the atmosphere and its effects on the globe in general and the tropical and semi-tropical countries more particularly India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to minimise the adverse impact of depletion of Ozone layer in the light of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Study of Ozone at NPL using Nimbus satellite measurements indicates the world wide decrease in total ozone from 1979 to 1989. There is a marginal decrease in total atmospheric ozone content over Indian latitudes. At latitudes higher than 45^0 ozone depletion has been certainly detected. Polar regions, in particular, the Antarctica, where the ozone hole was discovered, are well established as locations of ozone destruction.

(c) The ozone depletion is caused by various ozone depleting substances like chloroflouro Carbons. Halons, etc. As signatory to the Montreal Protocol, the Government of India has prepared a country programme to phase out all these ozone depleting substances as per the stipulation of the Protocol and actions are being taken as per the action plan mentioned in our country programme by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as nodal agency. It is an integrated approach which takes care of all the national and international interests.

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: The hon. Minister has said that the Nimbus Satellite measurements indicate, the world-wide decrease in total ozone from 1979 to 1989 and there is a marginal decrease in the total atmospheric ozone content over Indian latitudes. I would like to know whether the ozone layer depletion over Indian latitudes is faster or slower than the rate of depletion world-wide. If it is faster, what are the reasons?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the ozone depletion is much less in our latitude. This affects the Polar regions. Also, Sir, consumption of ozone depleting substances either on per capita basis on the basis of region is much less in India. Than what it is in the developed part of the northern hemisphere. So, in our region. i.e. in India, in the Southern countries although the ozone depletion is there, it is much less relatively.

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: What measures has the Government taken to reduce chloroflouro carbons by 50 per cent by the year 1995 and by 85 per cent by the year 1997 and completely ban it within the next decade as per the Montreal Protocol?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: As per the Montreal Protocol we are not required to reduce our ozone depleting substances which include chloroflouro carbons or halons, as the case may be, immediately. We are required to start phasing out from the year 2000 and completely phase out by the year 2010. In fact, Sir, 1996 is our base year. That means that it will be counted as our peak level from which we will have to start reducing from the year 2000. But even though we are not required to reduce till the year 2000, in order to remain in conformity where products are concerned with the world standards, there are certain companies who are compressing the phasing out period. We are attempting to start phasing out, depending upon the access

to and availability of technology from next year and after that, i.e. before the year 2000. Sir, we have prepared a national plan for this which I have taken to the Cabinet which includes what we are prepared to do, what our targets are and what the incremental amount of money is, which shall be required. We shall have to get it reimbursed from the Montreal Protocol Multi lateral Fund.

SHRI GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Sir, as you are aware, every year there is a scientific expedition which goes to Antarctica. I want to know whether this expedition has undertaken any studies on depletion of ozone at that place because of the very fact that it is known already that there is a hole in the ozone layer of the size of America at Antarctica. And our expedition goes there every year. I would like to know what the findings are because the depletion of ozone is also adversely affecting the green house effect, and that is causing global warming. Secondly, what are the effects of this depletion of ozone on health and whether there is any increase in skin diseases and cancer? Sir, production of these ozone-depleting gases—chloroflouro carbons and halon—is the maximum in the Western countries whereas, under the Montreal Protocol, we are to ban the production of these gases. I want to know whether this will not adversely affect our development. These are my three questions.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I start with the third question. Sir, there are alternative technologies available, and the alternative technologies even in the developed countries have not stablised like, for example, CFC-11 and CFC-12. There is an interim shift to over to HCFCs, and that has not yet been established as a final technology. That is an interim technology because the developed countries are required to phase out by 1996. So, they have shifted to an interim technology. Since we are not required to start our phase-out till the year 2000, we are not getting on to the interim technology which is, these various types of HCFCs. Sir, our commitment to the Montreal Protocol is contingent upon the availability of technology and the availability of funds because all the incremental costs to the Indian industry to make this change-over, as per the terms of the Protocol, are to be borne by the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund which is being administered by the World Bank. Sir, the second question relates to health. As far as health is concerned, of course, it has been adequately established that depletion in the ozone layer affects the skin in terms of skin cancer and affects also agriculture. There is substantial research which has taken place in the Western world about this. So, that is the reason why the Montreal Protocol and the various Conventions under the Montreal Protocol have been signed. Sir, about the first part of the question regarding Antarctica, one UVB monitoring station was set up over the Antarctica during the 9th expedition. And apart from the on-going UVB monitoring, the NPL has also been conducting hi-tech experiments in Antarctica to study ozone depletion since 1993.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Pachouri.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि भारत को ओज़ोन ट्रीटी अर्थात् मॉन्ट्रीयल प्रोटोकॉल फंड के तहत कितनी राशि प्रदान की गई है? क्या यह सही है कि चाइना, इंडोनेशिया, ईजिप्ट और कुछ अन्य देशों के मुकाबले मॉन्ट्रीयल प्रोटोकॉल फंड से जो राशि प्रदान की जाती है, वह राशि भारत को इन देशों के मुकाबले में कम प्राप्त हुई है और यदि हुई है तो भारत को इस फंड के माध्यम से अधिक राशि उपलब्ध हो सके, इसके लिए सरकार की तरफ से क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं?

श्री कमल नाथ: सर, नेट जो इन्क्रिमेंटल कॉस्ट है हमारे "इंडिया कंट्री प्रोग्राम" के मुताबिक, इसका ऐस्टीमेट है 1,964 मिलियन डॉलर अर्थात् 1.9 बिलियन डॉलर्स। यह जो कंट्री प्रोग्राम हमने बनाया है, इसके बाद हमें प्रोजेक्ट्स पोज़ करने हैं। मल्टीलेट्रल फंड को

प्रोजेक्ट्स पोज़ करने हैं। ईजिप्ट हो, चाइना हो, इन्होंने कई प्रोजेक्ट्स पोज़ किए हैं, हमसे ज्यादा प्रोजेक्ट्स पोज़ किए हैं। तो माननीय सदस्य की यह बात सही है कि हमें ईजिप्ट, चाइना और कुछ अन्य देशों के मुकाबले में कम मिला है पर इसीलिए कम मिला है कि हमने ये प्रोजेक्ट्स पोज़ नहीं किए हैं। हम इस प्रकार के प्रोजेक्ट्स पोज़ करना चाहते हैं जिससे हमारे देश को, हमारे देश के उद्योगों को अधिक से अधिक लाभ हो सके और मुझे विश्वास है कि जो प्रोजेक्ट्स पोज़ किए जाएंगे हमारे उद्योगों को राहत पहुंचाने के लिए उसमें कोई कमी नहीं होगी।

Granting Licence for basic Telephone Services in Various Circles

*45. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received just one bid for some of the circles in response to the Basic Telephone Services Tender;

(b) if so, whether the sole bidder in such cases be automatically entitled to a licence if it otherwise fulfils the technical criteria;

(c) whether it is also a fact that for the same tender Government have not received a single bid for some of the circles; and

(d) if so, what action is contemplated in respect of such circles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. The Government has received only one bid in respect of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh (East), Assam, Himachal Pradesh and North East Circles.

(b) The sole bidder will be granted a licence if he fulfills all the terms and conditions of the tender and if his financial bid is considered reasonable.

(c) Yes, Sir. No bid has been received for J&K Circle.

(d) A fresh tender may be invited for J&K Circle after the present round of tenders is over.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the time is very short, I would be very brief in my question. Other Members may also like to put supplementaries. May I know from the Government what are the criteria fixed for assessing the financial bids as reasonable?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, can he repeat the question? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are the criteria for deciding about a financial bid as being reasonable?

SHRI SUKH RAM: The technical evaluation is going on now. It may take about a month. Thereafter, the financial bids would be opened. Only then the final picture would emerge. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: He is asking about the criteria.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I wanted to know about the criteria. What are the criteria? I ask this question because he has mentioned in the answer here '...if his financial bid is considered reasonable'. What are the criteria fixed for considering a financial bid as reasonable?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Case by case. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Is it case by case or suitcase? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you spell out the reasonableness?

श्री सुखराम: प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह बताया है कि अगर रिज़नेबल होगा, क्योंकि इवैल्यूएशन हम टैक्नीकल बिड्स पर कर रहे हैं। फाइनैंशियल बिड्स का जो भी हाइऐस्ट होगा और उसमें टर्म्स और कंडीशंस को अगर वह फुलफिल करेगा तभी हम उसे मंजूर करेंगे।

श्री सतीश अग्रवाल : हाइऐस्ट कहां से होगा क्योंकि एक ही तो बिड है। इसलिए मैं पूछ रहा हूं कि फाइनैंशियल बिड्स का क्राइटीरिया क्या है? क्या आप तय करेंगे कि फाइनैंशियली रिज़नेबल है?